

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 5, as follows:

FIG. 6A also shows an embodiment of a tester 200 that may be used to test the operation of the decoder 300. Tester ~~300~~ 200 may be a hardware tester in some embodiments. In other embodiments, all or part of tester 200's functionality may be implemented in software. Tester ~~300~~ 200 may include a controller 204 configured to control comparison logic 206 and test code word generator 250. Test code word generator 250 may be configured to generate test code words and to provide those test code words to decoder 300. Exemplary sets of test code words that may be generated are illustrated in and discussed with reference to FIGs. 6C and 6D. Comparison logic 206 may be configured to receive the corrected data bits output from decoder 300 in response to each test code word and to compare those corrected data bits to a set of known correct data bits for that test code word. Comparison logic 206 may also receive the single error corrected/detected signal 18 and compare that signal to a known correct signal for each test code word. Based on the result of the comparison(s), comparison logic 206 may output a verification signal 222 indicating whether the decoder 300's output is correct. FIG. 7 describes the operation of a tester 200 according to one embodiment.